

Poisoned

By

Julie DeStefano

julie.destefano@yahoo.com

INT. VICTORIA'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

A cellphone buzzes on top of a nightstand beside a sleeping VICTORIA (30). Victoria's hand reaches over to turn off the buzzing. Her head falls back onto the pillow. Sunlight is seeping in through the window shades. An alarm clock reads 1:00.

VICTORIA V.O.
Sleep, the one escape from life's
haunting troubles.

The cellphone buzzes again.

VICTORIA V.O.
That is until you wake up.

Victoria's body jerks up. She reaches over for her phone and knocks over a framed photograph of herself and former boyfriend PHIL. Victoria silences the phone, throws off the covers and drags herself out of bed. She picks up the fallen photograph and studies it.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. PHIL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

An agitated Victoria gets out of her car and hurries towards Phil's front door. Her finger presses the doorbell.

BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. VICTORIA'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

Victoria sluggishly walks into the kitchen. She removes a box of cereal from the cabinet, and then opens the refrigerator and takes out a bottle of chocolate sauce and whipped cream.

FLASHBACK TO:

The door opens, revealing Victoria's then boyfriend PHIL, 35, wearing a T-shirt and sweatpants. He was not expecting Victoria's visit.

VICTORIA
Phil, we need to talk.

PHIL
Now?

(CONTINUED)

VICTORIA
This is important.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Cereal is poured into a bowl, followed by chocolate sauce and topping it off with whipped cream.

FLASHBACK TO:

PHIL
It's just not a good time right now. Maybe we can catch up next week?

VICTORIA
No, we need to talk now!

SHELLY
(In the background)
Babe, where did you put that bottle of red?

A woman walks into the background. To Victoria's horror she recognizes the woman as her gorgeous cousin SHELLY, 25, barely dressed and wearing one of Phil's button-downed shirts.

VICTORIA
Shelly?

SHELLY
Victoria?

An awkward pause. Victoria turns to Phil.

VICTORIA
How long?

PHIL
(Speechless)

VICTORIA
She's my cousin!

BACK TO PRESENT:

Victoria stares at the bowl of cereal. She takes the spoon and starts playing with her cereal, swirling the flakes around. She lifts up a spoonful of flakes and dumps them back into the bowl.

FLASHBACK TO:

Victoria storms away in tears. Phil watches her leave.

PHIL
(calling to her)
I was going to tell you.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Victoria finally takes a bite of cereal. It's disgusting. She hurries to the kitchen sink and spits it out.

The door buzzes. Victoria shuffles over to the door.

VICTORIA
(Talking into the intercom)
Who is it?

VICTORIA'S MOTHER
(Intercom voice)
It's mom.

Victoria buzzes her in. She opens the door and moments later VICTORIA'S MOTHER steps in.

VICTORIA'S MOTHER
Well, if it isn't my long-lost daughter.

VICTORIA
I didn't know you were coming over.

VICTORIA'S MOTHER
You won't return my calls. I haven't seen you in weeks. I wanted to make sure you were still alive.

VICTORIA'S MOTHER
(Glaring at Victoria's disheveled appearance)
Did you just get up?

VICTORIA
No.

Victoria's mother takes a good look around, noting the untidiness of the apartment. Chocolate wrappers and crumpled tissues litter the coffee table. Junk food is left out on the kitchen counter. Dishes are piled up in the sink.

VICTORIA'S MOTHER
I see you've been keeping up with things around here.

(CONTINUED)

VICTORIA

Did you come over here to criticize me?

VICTORIA'S MOTHER

I'm concerned about you. It's been almost a month and you're still moping over him.

VICTORIA

You don't understand. I had my entire future planned out. We were going to move into together, get engaged and have a spring wedding in that beautiful park gazebo. But thanks to him and my slut cousin, the perfect life I had envisioned is now gone.

VICTORIA'S MOTHER

I'm not pleased at all with what they did to you. It was absolutely despicable. But you can't keep dwelling on this. It's time to move on.

VICTORIA

He's happy and I'm miserable. That's not fair. He should be living and breathing my misery.

VICTORIA'S MOTHER

Thinking like that will only feed your mind with poison, leaving you with feelings of resentment and self-pity. The sooner you let him go the better.

INT. VICTORIA'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

Victoria is now well put-together, wearing a low-cut red blouse and black pants. She brushes her hair and puts on red lipstick while standing in front of her dresser mirror.

VICTORIA V.O.

Mom is right. It's time to make things right again.

EXT. PHIL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Victoria's finger touches the doorbell. Phil opens the door.

VICTORIA
Is she here?

Phil shakes his head.

VICTORIA
I really need to talk. You owe me.

INT. PHIL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Victoria and Phil are sitting together on the couch in awkward silence. Victoria's hand is clutching her purse.

VICTORIA
Do you have anything to drink?

PHIL
Yeah, what would you like?

VICTORIA
Let's share a bottle of red.

INT. PHIL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Phil pops the cork off the bottle. Wine pours into an empty glass.

INT. PHIL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Victoria spots a framed photograph of Phil and Shelly on the end table. Phil enters the living room with two glasses of wine.

VICTORIA
Looks like things are getting serious.
(Showing Phil the picture)

PHIL
Oh, well, uh...

VICTORIA
Have you met her parents?

(CONTINUED)

PHIL

Yeah.

VICTORIA

Already? Wow. You didn't meet mine until we were seeing each other for how long?

PHIL

So, what did you want to talk about?

VICTORIA

I just want to know one thing. Why?

PHIL

Why?

VICTORIA

Why her? Out of all the skanks you could've had your pick from, why did you choose my cousin? And why would you even do something so sneaky, so cruel, so selfish and dishonest to me? You flushed our entire future down the toilet. Why? Was I never good enough for you?

Phil is speechless for a moment.

PHIL

I'm sorry. I'm really really sorry.

VICTORIA

Did you even love me?

PHIL

Yeah.

VICTORIA

I want the truth.

PHIL

Yeah, I did. But then things were moving really fast with the whole moving in together thing. And with Shelly there, I got confused...

VICTORIA

You were a puss.

(CONTINUED)

PHIL

I didn't want to hurt you.

VICTORIA

Well, you could have avoided that easily...by not screwing my cousin.

PHIL

Look, there's no reasonable explanation for what happened. But I did hurt you, and I'm not proud of myself for that. And you're right. What I did was selfish, dishonest and mean. And I can't take all of that back. All I can say now is that I'm sorry.

VICTORIA

Thank you. I missed you.

Victoria's hand touches Phil's leg and squeezes it ever so slightly. A suggestive smile tugs at her lips. Phil looks at Victoria's hand and then up at her. Victoria takes her hand away and then reaches for her wine but ends up knocking the glass over. Wine spills everywhere.

VICTORIA

Oh shoot!

PHIL

I'll get some paper towels.

Phil grabs a roll of paper towels. He rushes back to the living room and starts sopping up the spilled wine.

VICTORIA

(Taking the towels from him)

Let me do this.

PHIL

I'll get you another glass.

INT. PHIL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Phil opens the same bottle of red wine and pours the wine into a new glass.

INT. PHIL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Victoria sees Phil coming back and quickly closes her purse and places it on the floor. Phil hands her a new glass before taking a seat next to her.

VICTORIA
(holding up her glass)
Cheers.

PHIL
Cheers.

Their glasses clang together. They both drink. Everything gets blurry.

INT. PHIL'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Two empty glasses sit on the coffee table. The camera tilts up to reveal Phil and Victoria snuggled together on the couch under a blanket. The doorbell rings.

PHIL
(groggy and confused)
What the hell happened? Did we?

Victoria picks up Phil's shirt off the floor and puts it on.

VICTORIA
You rocked the whole couch last night.

PHIL
Crap! Oh, no!

The doorbell rings again.

VICTORIA
I'll get that.

PHIL
Wait! No! Don't!

EXT. PHIL'S HOUSE - MORNING

The door opens to reveal Shelly standing outside the door. She is shocked to see Victoria at the door, wearing nothing but Phil's shirt.

(CONTINUED)

VICTORIA

Shelly, what a surprise. We weren't expecting you.

SHELLY

What are you doing here? Where's Phil?

Phil races to the door wearing the same pants from last night. His mouth drops open when he sees Shelly and Victoria facing each other.

PHIL

Shelly?

SHELLY

Phil, did you and Victoria...?

Phil is speechless.

SHELLY

And this was the surprise you had in store for me?

PHIL

Wait. What?

SHELLY

You are sick. You two deserve each other.

Shelly storms off.

PHIL

Shelly wait. Please let me explain.

Victoria watches as Phil chases after Shelly.

VICTORIA V.O.

It's funny. After all this. I thought I would feel better.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PHIL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Victoria spills her wine. When Phil leaves the room Victoria removes a small bottle from her purse and pours a liquid substance into Phil's glass. Phil returns and she quickly puts away her purse. They drink. Phil puts down his empty glass. He passes out on the couch. Victoria pulls his phone out of his pocket. She locates Shelly's number.

INT. SHELLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Shelly notices her phone buzzing and sees a text from Phil.

PHIL'S TEXT

Hey hon, let's get together
tomorrow morning. I have a surprise
for you.

SHELLY'S TEXT

How sweet! What time?

PHIL'S TEXT

Be at my house at 10:30.

SHELLY'S TEXT

Okay babe, see you then.

Victoria unbuttons Phil's shirt, pulls off his pants. and then removes her shirt. She takes the throw from behind the couch and wraps it around herself and Phil. She positions herself so that Phil's arms are wrapped around her.

END FLASHBACK:

VICTORIA V.O.

But now I realize that even after
all of this, the emptiness and
pain from the relationship's demise
is still very much a part of me.

Phil walks past Victoria as he walks into the house, shooting a glare into her eyes.

VICTORIA V.O.

Phil will never be mine again. And
nothing changes the fact that I'm
still alone.

Victoria gets into her car and turns the key in the ignition. The car pulls away.

VICTORIA V.O.

All I can do now is move on.

The car drives off.

FADE OUT